

## Hobart, Jamie

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**From:** Nicole Rivard <nrivard@friendsofanimals.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 12:03 PM  
**To:** pstestimony  
**Subject:** Please support HB 5408

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I write to you in your capacity as a member of the Public Safety and Security Committee to support HB 5408, a bill that would require the holder of a permit for the carrying of any pistol or revolver to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer.

More and more frequently, persons are carrying handguns openly in public and in stores. This is very intimidating to shoppers. It is additionally alarming to learn that unless there is reasonable suspicion of a crime, a police officer on the scene is not allowed to see the permit of the person to insure that the permit is valid.

HB 5408 would require the permit to be shown upon request of the officer. This is a common sense solution that would alleviate tension between the officer, the permit holder and the public who witness the encounter.

We at Friends of Animals can't stand by while the National Rifle Association takes aim at this proposed change to Connecticut's gun laws that simply makes it easier for law enforcement officials to ask to see the permits of those carrying guns in public.

Supporting and passing this bill would be one small victory in a much larger war against a powerful and ruthless industry that spends millions of dollars every year lobbying its agenda in Washington D.C. The gun industry argues that they are preserving and passing down the rights that are imbued upon Americans by the Second Amendment. Their efforts, in fact, lead to the death or injury of thousands of Americans every year and assist in the unnecessary killings of millions of animals.

Despite the NRA's powerful lobbying arm—the good news is that only 1.4 percent of Connecticut's population hunts. Still, in a recent article in our quarterly magazine *Action Line*, we uncovered that hunting is allowed in all but three of the Connecticut's 32 state forests. The James L Goodwin State Forest, Massacoe Forest and Preserve Forest are the only forests left in Connecticut where human and non-human animals are truly safe.

The NRA will say that the legislation would infringe on the right to carry a concealed weapon in the state. What about the rights of the majority of Connecticut residents who want to hike in a forest without worrying about getting hit by a stray bullet, or who want to run into a Subway for a sandwich or a Wal-Mart without feeling alarmed or intimidated by someone openly carrying a gun. Knowing that a police officer has the ability to ask to see the permit of those persons carrying guns at least will give us some piece of mind.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Rivard  
Correspondent  
Friends of Animals, Darien, Conn.

Nicole Rivard  
Correspondent

**~~EXPLOITERS~~**  
**FRIENDS**  
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